# Natural News

A Publication of The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 Ecosystem Protection Program



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Teachers learn to measure instantaneous discharge under the instruction of the US Geological Survey's Greg O'Neill. ~Photo by the Big Thompson Watershed Forum

National Water Monitoring Day Brings Teachers to Outdoor Classroom

~Barb Maynard, Big Thompson Watershed Forum and George Parrish, EPA Region 8

The Big Thompson Watershed Forum (BTWF) collaborated with EPA Region 8, Colorado natural resources groups and other federal agencies to celebrate National Water Monitoring Day on October 17, by offering high school teachers and natural resource professionals a chance to learn hands-on about the intricacies of monitoring water quality and quantity. The day was designed to provide teachers with a number of lessons that are practical and relevant for use in their classrooms.

The EPA Region 8 Water Quality Unit and

Golden Lab, US Geological Survey, Colorado Division of Water Resources, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado State University, Colorado Watershed Network and BTWF each taught different aspects of water monitoring and water resources to 23 teachers, four Rocky Mountain National Park staff, one EPA intern, three BTWF members, and one staff member of Earth Force, a Denver nonprofit organization. These participants have an expected average annual audience of over 14,500 people! The BTWF took a train-the-trainers approach, reaching out to educators and environmental professionals to extend the workshops outreach to the largest possible audience.

Classroom sessions were presented in water resources management; water rights and administration; water quality monitoring; the river continuum concept; and water quantity versus water quality. Field training allowed participants to get their feet wet while learning about measuring stream discharge; river morphology; nutrients and dissolved oxygen sampling and analysis; and macroinvertebrate and bacteria sampling and identification. Participants received valuable and up-todate water-related resource materials for use in classroom presentations and outdoor activities, and received course credits through the Colorado School of Mines.

Sylvan Dale Ranch generously donated the use of their beautiful facility on the Big Thompson River. Mother Nature provided a beautiful sunny and warm autumn day along the river, bringing together people who care about preserving our precious water resources. For more information on the **Big Thompson Watershed Forum** visit their website at:

http://www.btwatershed.org/



Stacey Eriksen from EPA talks about wetlands. ~Photo by Christine Holland, River Keepers

## Red River Water Festival ~Christine Holland, River Keepers, Jeff Baird, Fargo Forum article 10/02/03

In 1999, River Keepers initiated the first-ever youth water festival in the Fargo, ND-Moorhead, MN area. The first water festival had an attendance of 350 students. With the assistance of an EPA-funded project, FM River, the water festival was able to expand to include the majority of the 4th grade students in the two local watersheds. The 2003 festival, held September 30 to October 2, had 1,400 students attending over a three-day period. Each class attends the festival for a half-day session featuring an opening speaker and four hands-on activities related to water. This is now the third largest festival in the tristate area.

Buffalo Red River Watershed District Administrator, Bruce Albright, showed students how an innocuous task like fertilizing the lawn can cause pollution.

Laura Bonneau of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service used yarn to demonstrate to students how the ecosystem is interconnected. Each student wore tags naming a specific plant or animal. They were then told to pass the ball of yarn to a species their tag depended on so a web was formed. Students then saw no plant or animal could be taken out of the web without impacting all the other species.

Stacey Eriksen from EPA Region 8 taught classes on Wetlands Metaphors using common objects, like a sponge, as physical metaphors for natural wetland functions. Also, objects that are found in wetlands were handled and discussed as to why they belong in a wetland. "We learned about the wetlands," said

Malena Mastel, a fourth grader at Longfellow Elementary in Fargo. "We learned what lives there and why they need each other."

The festival, which is free to students and schools, is the result of weeks of planning by River Keepers, a local nonprofit group focused on promoting the Red River. All experts are asked to make the presentations interactive. "A lot of times the kids are having fun and not even realizing they're learning," said Christine Holland, project coordinator. This was the first time Dilworth Elementary teacher Nancy Cole took her fourth-grade students to the festival. She plans on returning. "This is excellent," she said. "It is important they learn about conservation. Their future and their children's future depends on it."

The success of the current Red River Water Festival can be attributed to several factors. First, the festival emphasizes hands-on activities that engage the students. These activities, many of which are a component of Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), have been proven effective at increasing student knowledge. Second, teachers are provided pre-and post-water festival student activities to integrate into their water and land curriculum. Third, festival logistics and sessions are modified yearly based on evaluations. Fourth, presenters are carefully chosen based upon their expertise and ability to actively engage youth in hands-on activities. Fifth, the festival is tightly scheduled and logistics are carefully well-coordinated to ensure optimum teacher participation.

For more information, please contact **Christine Holland** of Fargo-Moorhead River Keepers at (701) 235-2595 or **riverkeepers@i29.net** 

### Bioassessments Leading to Biocriteria ~By Suzanne Pagorek, EPA Region 8

This is the eighth article in a series describing how the Clean Water Act is linked to watershed planning and implementation. The previous articles by Karen Hamilton described the Clean Water Water Act components that are analogous to a generic watershed plan, water quality standards, total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), data for watershed management, biocriteria I and II, and monitoring and assessment. This article is a continuation of our biocriteria discussions, part I in Fall 2002 Issue 15, and part II Winter 2003, Issue 16.

As previously discussed, ecological integrity is a combination of three components: chemical integrity, physical integrity, and biological integrity. When one or more of these components is degraded, the health of the waterbody will be affected and, in most cases, the aquatic life living there will reflect the degradation.

The identification of water-quality degradation requires appropriate monitoring tools. Bioassessments are the primary tool to evaluate the biological condition of a waterbody. Bioassessments consist of surveys and other direct measurements of aquatic life in the waterbody. Aquatic life integrates the cumulative effects of different stressors such as:

- excess nutrients (fertilizer);
- toxic chemicals;
- increased temperature;
- and excessive sediment loading.

Since plants and animals (biological communities) respond to stresses over time, they provide information that water chemistry measurements or toxicity tests do not always produce.

Biologists and other natural resource scientists use accepted scientific principles to derive biocriteria from bioassessment data. Biocriteria are narrative descriptions or numerical values that describe the least impacted (reference) aquatic life inhabiting waters of a designated aquatic life use. Further, the reference describes attainable biological conditions for water body segments with common physical characteristics within the same biogeographic region. Reference conditions can be used as goals for restoration of water bodies. Narrative biological criteria are general statements of attainable conditions of biological integrity and water quality for a given use designation.

Additionally, states and tribes can adopt biocriteria into water quality standards to describe a desired condition for the aquatic life in waters they have designated for aquatic life use. The process of developing biological criteria, including refined use classes, narrative criteria, and numeric criteria, includes agency managers, staff biologists, and the public through public hearings and comment.

The use of biological assessment and criteria for managing the Nation's waterbodies is progressing, and is equipping the states, tribal nations, and EPA with a more effective set of monitoring tools for protecting the ecological integrity of our water resources. With colloboration among EPA, state agencies, and other agencies, all states nationwide now have bioassessment programs for streams and small rivers, and over half the states have adopted at least narrative biocriteria into their water quality standards. State water quality programs benefit from biological criteria because:

- they directly assess impairments to existing aquatic life from impacts on the environment;
- are defensible and quantifiable;
- document improvements in water quality; reduce the likelihood of false positives;
- and provide information on the integrity of biological systems that is compelling to the public.

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality has made significant progress integrating biocriteria into their water quality assessments. Originally, the State conducted bioassessments to assess the support of aquatic life for using macroinvertebrates as the primary indicator. The State also collected baseline biological data from minimally impacted streams in each ecoregion of Wyoming as a benchmark for assessing biological and water quality conditions of other streams across the state, and for creating an Index of Biological Integrity (IBI). An IBI is a synthesis of diverse biological information that numerically depicts associations between human influence and biological attributes. Wyoming expanded its program and not only collects reference stream data but is also using this collected data to analyze biological conditions of other Wyoming streams. Of the 2,639 miles assessed for biology, 2,124 (80%) Wyoming stream miles are fully supporting designated uses. Wyoming uses biological data in nonpoint source assessments, TMDL assessment and monitoring, and aquatic life use determinations.

Biosurveys and biological criteria add the needed dimension to assessment programs because they focus on the aquatic community. Biological components of the aquatic system are a useful indicator of both aggregate ecological impact and overall temporal trends in the condition of an aquatic ecosystem. Furthermore, biosurveys can detect aquatic life impacts that other available assessment methods may miss.

To find out more about the bioassessment program in your state, see the document, <u>Summary of Biological</u>
<u>Assessment Programs and Biocriteria Development for States, Tribes, Territories, and Interstate Commissions:</u>
<u>Streams and Wadeable Rivers</u> or the State Bioassessment Program Website:

http://www.epa.gov/bioindicators/html/stateprgs.html
Further information is also available online at the EPA
Office of Science and Technology Website:
http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/biocriteria/

### EPA's Electronic Notification Process (eNOI) ~Greg Davis, EPA Region 8

EPA recently developed the first online application for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) pollution discharge permits. This application, referred to as the eNOI (electronic Notice of Intent), allows construction operators to apply for a NPDES stormwater permit online. The eNOI application allows permits to be obtained more easily, quickly and accurately than permits obtained by submitting a paper application in the mail. The following questions are provided as guidance on the eNOI electronic application.

### What is the eNOI?

The eNOI is an electronic form that resides on EPA's Central Data Exchange (CDX). To use the eNOI, users must first register with CDX. Registration is quick and

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easy. Once registered with CDX, the eNOI guides the applicant through a series of questions that comprise the NPDES permit application. At the end of this process, the application is signed online and the information is transferred to the EPA's Notice of Intent (NOI) database and an email is sent out notifying the user that the application has been received.

What types of permits can you apply for using the eNOI? The eNOI was designed to handle applications for NPDES stormwater permits where EPA is the permitting authority. In EPA Region 8, EPA is the permitting authority on Indian country in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming, and on federal facilities within the state of Colorado. Currently, the eNOI can be used to apply for coverage under EPA's Construction General Permit. Coverage under EPA's Construction General Permit is required for all construction projects disturbing greater than or equal to one acre of land. In spring of 2004, the eNOI will be expanded to include industrial stormwater permit applications as well.

What are the benefits to submitting an application online? The eNOI provides as an alternative to mailing paper applications into the EPA Notice of Intent Processing Center in Washington, D.C. Compared to submitting a paper application, the eNOI allows the applicant to obtain a permit significantly faster. Paper applications must be sent in the mail and reviewed by contractors in Washington, D.C. before permit coverage can be granted. In addition, since the eNOI performs a series of checks online, mistakes can be corrected prior to submitting the application. With paper applications, mistakes must be corrected by re-submitting the application in the mail. The eNOI also provides a series of questions which enable the applicant to better ascertain the specific permit requirements.

Who can apply for a construction stormwater permit online? To apply for a permit using the eNOI, you must be the certifying official who is authorized to prepare and submit a Notice of Intent for coverage under the stormwater construction general permit. Construction projects may break ground seven days from the time the application is received provided that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not deem that the project will adversely effect threatened or endangered species.

# NAMMAMMAMMAMMAMMAMM

There is pleasure in the pathless woods, There is a rapture on the lonely shore, There is a society where none intrudes, By the deep sea, and music in its roar.

~Lord Byron

#### Where is the eNOI available?

The eNOI is available on EPA's web site. Information about CDX registration, the eNOI process, and the eNOI form can be obtained at

http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/enoi.cfm For more information, please contact Greg Davis at (303) 312-6082 or <u>davis.gregory@epa.gov</u>

### Water Quality Trading Policy ~Contributed by Stacey Eriksen, EPA Region 8

Earlier this year, EPA announced a Water Quality Trading Policy to cut industrial, municipal and agricultural discharges into the nation's waterways. The trading policy seeks to support and encourage states and tribes in developing and putting into place water quality trading programs that implement the requirements of the Clean Water Act and federal regulations. Increased flexibility is expected to reduce the cost of improving and maintaining the quality of the nation's waters. The policy will help increase the pace and success of cleaning up impaired rivers, streams and lakes throughout the country.

The agency provided more than \$800,000 in fiscal year 2002 funding for technical and other support for 11 trading projects around the country. The 11 pilots are listed on the trading policy website at the end of this article.

Water quality trading uses economic incentives to improve water quality. It allows one source to meet its regulatory obligations by using pollutant reductions created by another source that has lower pollution control costs. The standards remain the same, but efficiency is increased and costs are decreased.

In order for a water quality trade to take place, a pollution reduction "credit" must first be created. EPA's water quality trading policy states that sources should reduce pollution loads beyond the level required by the most stringent water quality based requirements in order to create a pollution reduction "credit" that can be traded within the watershed. For example, a landowner or a farmer could create credits by changing cropping practices and planting shrubs and trees next to a stream. A municipal wastewater treatment plant then could use these credits to meet water quality limits in its permit.

The policy could save the public hundreds of millions of dollars by advancing more effective, efficient partnerships to clean up and protect watersheds. The policy provides incentives to both maintain high water quality where it exists and to restore impaired waters. In addition, the policy describes provisions of credible trading programs that are consistent with the Clean Water Act and federal regulations.

An independent study of three watersheds in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin looked at the cost of controlling phosphorous loadings (World Resources Institute 2000). This study found that the cost of reducing phosphorous from controlling point sources - traditional pipe-in-the water dischargers regulated by the Clean Water Act - to be considerably higher than those based on trading between point and non-point sources which are not regulated by the Clean Water Act. Decreased phosphorus loadings correspond to better water quality and fish habitat. For more information log on to EPA's Trading Web site at <a href="http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/trading.htm">http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/trading.htm</a> Water quality trading questions and answers are at <a href="http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/trading/policyfaq.html">http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/trading/policyfaq.html</a>

### Watershed Initiative ~Contributed by Stacey Eriksen, EPA Region 8

In May 2003, EPA announced the first round of nearly \$15 million in grants to 20 watershed organizations selected as part of the first round of the Watershed Initiative. The grants averaged \$700,000 each. The selected organizations were chosen to receive the awards because their work plans were the most likely to achieve environmental results in a relatively short-time period. For example: over 70 percent of the selected projects address agricultural pollution; 50 percent address urban and industrial runoff; 50 percent address the relationship between water quality and habitat restoration for wildlife and endangered or threatened species and 30 percent have projects aimed at the homeowner. Several projects will study a more innovative, market-based approach to attaining water quality and will test possibilities such as pollutant trading and crop insurance.

For 2004, the Agency is continuing its focus on approaches aimed to provide quick, measurable environmental results, partnerships, innovation, and program integration. In addition, this year will emphasize market-based approaches, other socio-economic strategies, and the serious and growing hypoxia problem facing the Gulf of Mexico.

Nominations by the country's governors and tribal leaders for the second year of grants competition are due to EPA on or before January 15, 2004. Final selections of the watershed grantees will be announced in the spring. To access the Federal Register Notice and other information about the Watershed Initiative go to:

http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative/

### Migrant Farm Worker Drinking Water: Safe At The Well? ~By Michael Wenstrom, EPA Region 8

It was a hot summer's afternoon when the EPA van pulled onto the road leading to a migrant farm worker camp in northern Colorado. The Environmental Justice (EJ) Program of EPA's Region 8 had been working for two years to determine whether migrant farm workers in Colorado are

provided with clean, safe drinking water at their job sites. And, this day, staff from the Environmental Justice Program and EPA-Region 8 Lab were visiting a camp at the invitation of a local grower to test the water in the well which served the farm workers. Well water was drawn and sealed in clean receptacles. The staff talked briefly with several workers about their use of the well water, thanked the grower for his cooperation and then left to return to Denver.

This was the first of a series of four camps at which the EJ program was invited to sample the drinking water wells. Over the summer of 2002, we visited the fields, sampled water from wells, analyzed the results and discovered that, in some cases, the water does not meet the federal Safe Drinking Water Act standard for nitrate.

The group most at risk from high nitrate levels are infants (up to about six months of age) and babies being carried by expectant mothers. Nitrate at high levels interferes with the ability of infants to metabolize oxygen, leading to "blue baby" syndrome. This causes infants to develop a blue coloration of their mucous membranes, and possible digestive and respiratory problems.

Now that we know that we have a problem, how do we assure that people who are currently at risk receive clean, safe drinking water at the job site? And, what about other camps? They have similar environmental concerns.

The well-testing activity raises many questions for EPA Region 8: How many children are at risk from exposure to high levels of nitrate in worker camps? How many camps are there where nitrate (or other contaminants) are present in concentrations above the federal standard in wells that are unregulated? What is the most appropriate solution to the problem of contaminated drinking water wells? Finally, how do we help to make those solutions work? The answer to these questions will be found only by working with our partners in this process: EPA's Drinking Water Program, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the U.S. Department of Labor, Colorado growers and the agencies who serve migrant farm workers needs. We will be working with all of these groups to identify creative and practical solutions to the challenge—assuring that workers in migrant farm worker camps have safe water to drink. Stay tuned! For more information, please contact Michael **Wenstrom** of the Environmental Justice Program at (303) 312-7009, or wenstrom.michael@epa.gov

### Water Security and You ~Contributed by Jody Ostendorf, EPA Region 8

Local drinking water and wastewater systems may be targets for terrorists and other would-be criminals wishing to disrupt and cause harm to your community water supplies or wastewater facilities.

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Because utilities are often located in isolated areas, drinking water sources and wastewater collection systems may cover large areas that are difficult to secure and patrol. Residents can help by noticing and reporting any suspicious activity in and around local water utilities. Residents interested in protecting their water resources and community can join together with law enforcement, neighborhood watch groups, water suppliers, wastewater operators, and other local public health officials. If you witness suspicious activities, report them to your local law enforcement authorities.

Examples of suspicious activity might include:

- People dumping or discharging material to a water reservoir
- □ People climbing or cutting a utility fence
- ☐ Unidentified truck or car parked or loitering near waterway or facilities for no apparent reason
- □ Suspicious opening or tampering with manhole covers, buildings, or equipment
- People climbing or on top of water tanks
- ☐ People photographing or videotaping utility facilities, structures or equipment
- □ Strangers hanging around locks or gates.

Do not confront strangers. Instead, report suspicious activities to local authorities.

When reporting an incident:

- □ State the nature of the incident
- ☐ Identify yourself and your location
- □ Identify location of activity
- ☐ Describe any vehicle involved (color, make model, license plate number).

For free outreach materials regarding water security, go to <a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater/security/flyers/index.html">http://www.epa.gov/safewater/security/flyers/index.html</a>

For more information, please contact, **Tracy Eagle** (303) 312-6245, or **Marty Swickard** (303) 312-7021, or **Gail Hill** (303) 312-6497.

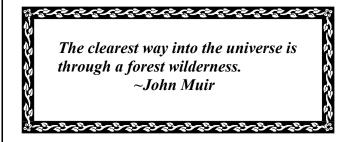
EPA's "Voluntary National Guidelines for Management of On-site and Clustered (Decentralized) Wastewater Treatment Systems" are Now Available ~By Rich Muza, EPA Region 8

The performance of on-site and other decentralized wastewater systems is a national issue of great concern. (On-site/decentralized wastewater treatment systems treat sewage from homes and businesses that are not connected to a centralized wastewater treatment plant. In the 1997 "Response to Congress on Use of Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems," EPA determined that with

the technology now available, adequately managed decentralized systems can protect public health and the environment as well as provide long-term solutions for the nation's wastewater needs.

The Voluntary National Guidelines are a set of recommended practices needed to raise the level of performance of on-site/decentralized wastewater systems through improved management programs. Five separate "model programs" are presented as a progressive series. with management requirements becoming more rigorous as the wastewater system technologies become more complex, or as the sensitivity of the environment increases. Each model program includes program elements and program activities needed to achieve the management objectives. The five model management programs are: 1) homeowner awareness, 2) maintenance contracts, 3) operating permits, 4) responsible management entity operation and maintenance, and 5) responsible management entity ownership. These model programs are not intended to supercede existing federal, state, tribal, and local laws and regulations but rather be a complement to them.

The Voluntary National Guidelines were released by EPA in March 2003 and are available electronically at <a href="http://www.epa.gov/owm/mtb/decent/index.htm">http://www.epa.gov/owm/mtb/decent/index.htm</a> or by contacting Rich Muza at (303) 312-6595 or <a href="muza.richard@epa.gov">muza.richard@epa.gov</a>



# EPA Publishes New Guidelines for the National Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program ~Contributed by Stacey Eriksen, EPA Region 8

EPA has published new guidelines for the National Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program which is implemented under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. These guidelines, which began in fiscal year 2004, completely replace all previous NPS grants guidances. The guidelines focus approximately one-half of Section 319 grant dollars on remediating impaired waters by developing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), and implementating watershed-based plans. These plans provide an analytical framework for:

- assessing the sources of water pollution;
- estimating the amount of pollutant reduction needed to

- achieve water quality standards;
- identifying the management measures whose implementation will enable those reductions to be achieved;
- and identifying financial and regulatory tools, as appropriate, that will enable the watershed plan's goals to be achieved.

These guidelines were published in the Federal Register on Oct. 23, 2003 and are posted on EPA's NPS web site at: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/">http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/</a>

### Web Resources

~Contributed by Stacey Eriksen, EPA Region 8, and Roger Dean, EPA Region 8

NCSE's 4th National Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment: Water for a Sustainable and Secure Future will be held on January 29-30, 2004 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

The 4<sup>th</sup> national conference will bring together a diverse group of stakeholders—both specialists and non-specialists in water resources united by their common concern over issues of water sustainability. Leading scientists, policy makers, government officials, business executives, and others will explore the role of science in achieving sustainable relationships among water, people, and the environment.

The opening keynote address will be delivered by William K. Reilly, who will draw upon his experience as President and CEO of Aqua International Partners, Chairman of the World Wildlife Fund, and Former Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Visit <a href="http://www.NCSEonline.org">http://www.NCSEonline.org</a> to register online, submit an abstract for the poster session, read pre-conference materials, obtain the latest program updates, and view links to travel and lodging options. Please direct general conference questions to <a href="mailto:conference@NCSEonline.org">conference@NCSEonline.org</a> To reserve an exhibition space or to learn more about the exhibition, please visit the conference website or send an email to <a href="mailto:exhibition@NCSEonline.org">exhibition@NCSEonline.org</a> This conference is cosponsored by EPA.

Report Takes Detailed Look at Farm Conservation Easements "A National View of Agricultural Easement Programs" is the first report in a series to be issued from a recent study providing an in-depth and comprehensive analysis of agricultural easement programs undertaken in the United States. The report profiles 46 agricultural easement programs in 15 states—nearly half of all publicly funded farmland protection programs in the nation. The 46 programs studied have spent a total of \$1.8 billion to protect 887,000 acres on 5,800 farms.

The study on agricultural easement programs, conducted by American Farmland Trust and the Agricultural Issues Center, University of California, in collaboration with Farm Foundation, finds that use of this land conservation tool is most prevalent in suburban and semi-rural parts of major metropolitan areas, counties with populations of more than 100,000 that have been experiencing rapid population growth for years. To learn more about the study and view the report online, go to

http://www.aftresearch.org/PDRdatabase/NAPidx.htm

### Society for Range Management

Photo site for the Society for Range Management. It has many before-and-after pictures of rangeland spanning many years in several states. Of special note is the collection from CSU which has over 700 wildlife pictures from the Garst Wildlife Collection. The site is at <a href="http://www.rangelands.org/links">http://www.rangelands.org/links</a> rangeland photographs.shtml

The video loan library, which can be borrowed for use in presentations and education, is found at

### http://www.rangelands.org/education video.shtml

The site for Coordinated Resource Management, what it is and how it is used for any resource management dispute resolution, is at

#### http://www.rangelands.org/education crm.shtml

National River Restoration Science Synthesis. Information about the program and who's involved is located at <a href="http://www.amrivers.org/feature/riverrestoration.htm">http://www.amrivers.org/feature/riverrestoration.htm</a>

#### Recommended EPA Water Resources

Water Where You Live

Click on a state in the map to find water information provided by EPA. <a href="http://www.epa.gov/ow/states.html">http://www.epa.gov/ow/states.html</a>

Index of Watershed Indicators: Contaminated Sediments Certain chemicals in water tend to bind to particles and collect in bottom sediments.

#### http://www.epa.gov/iwi/1999sept/iv4\_usmap.html

Water on Tap: A Consumer's Guide to the Nation's Drinking Water Report provides information about the quality of U.S. drinking water safety.

### http://www.epa.gov/safewater/wot/introtap.html

Water: What You Can Do

Information to raise public awareness and encourage

involvement in water quality issues.

http://www.epa.gov/water/citizen.html



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EPA Region 8 Environmental Information Service Center 1-800-227-8917

### **Natural News**

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If you have an article concerning ecosystem protection, community based environmental protection, or watersheds; we would like to hear from you!

We need your help in updating our mailing list in order to keep Natural News coming to you! Please contact John DiPentino at (303) 312-6594 or <a href="mailto:dipentino.john@epa.gov">dipentino.john@epa.gov</a>, or write to him at the return address below.

Conserve our natural resources, please share your copy with a friend or recycle.

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Ecosystem Stewardship on the web: http://www.epa.gov/region8/community resources/steward/est.html



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